

--2. (New) A client server system including a plurality of client applications for providing web site information, comprising:

a user interface for forwarding receiving preview requests which are input by a user;

a page profile module operable to at least one of forward the preview information requests to a server and receive preview information from the server;

51 a main controller for receiving the preview requests from the graphical user interface; said main controller processing the preview requests and forwarding said preview requests to the page profile module;

a first interface for transmitting the preview information requests to the server; and

a real-time build module; said module receiving preview request information from the main controller and building preview information by accessing preview information sources including web page networks.

3. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the main controller controls client activities, facilitates communication between client modules, and commands client modules.

4. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the user interface comprises one of a graphical user interface and a system interface for inputting preview information requests.

5. (New) The system of claim 4, wherein the user inputs preview information requests via at least one of the graphical user interface and system interface which display preview information returned to the user.

6. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the page profile module generates preview information by accepting preview information requests from the main controller, executing the preview information requests by generating specific preview information, and returning the generated preview information to the main controller

7. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the page profile module generates preview information by at least one of building preview information from preview sources and retrieving preview information from the server.

8. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the preview information sources comprise unformatted sources of preview information from which the page profile module extracts preview information.

9. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the configuration data module stores client configuration settings.

10. (New) The system of claim 9, wherein the client configuration comprises at least one of user preferences and configurable variables for determining client behavior.

11. (New) The system of claim 10, wherein the user preferences and the configurable variables for determining client behavior determine which preview information page profile is retrieved by the page profile module from the server and which preview information is built from preview information sources.

12. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the client page profile module builds preview information sources by accessing preview information sources, extracting relevant preview information, and formatting extracted information in a standard preview information format.

13. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the preview information sources include web page networks and auxiliary sources.

14. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the page profile module retrieves preview information from the server by sending the preview information requests to the server via the first interface, and the server returns requested preview information to the page profile module via the first interface.

15. (New) The system of claim 2, further comprising:

a log module for recording client operation information;

a configuration data module for determining a type of recording by the log module; said configuration data module storing client configuration information which defines client properties,

a user profile module for processing a user specific portion of log files stored in the log module to determine user specific information; and

a server management interface for providing communication of non-page-profile module information between the server and the client.

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16. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the client properties include data build preferences, user preferences, and module configuration information for the client modules.

17. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein said page profile module comprises:

a page profile retrieve module;

a page profile build module which extracts preview information from preview information sources;

a page profile interface module;

a world wide web interface module; and

an auxiliary interface module.

18. (New) The system of claim 17, further comprising:

preview information sources from which the page profile retrieve module extracts preview information.

19. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the preview information comprises web page networks

20. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the web page networks are at least one of a world wide web and auxiliary data sources.

21. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the auxiliary data sources are web site information data bases.

22. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the page profile retrieve module receives retrieve requests from external modules, and generates preview information retrieve requests for page profile submodules and other external modules.

23. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the retrieve requests from external modules include preview information retrieve requests by the page profile retrieve module to the server and preview information retrieve requests by the page profile module to the preview information archive.

24. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the page profile retrieve module receives preview information requests, and at least one of determines whether to build requested preview information and whether to retrieve the requested preview information from an archive of pre-built preview information.

25. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the pre-built preview information is at least one of information from the server, information from the server preview information archives and preview information databases supplied by web site owners.

26. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the page profile retrieve module comprises a plurality of sub-modules.

27. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the plurality of modules comprise at least one of an image retrieve module, a meta retrieve module, a real-time retrieve module and an auxiliary data retrieve module.

28. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the page profile build module comprises a plurality of sub-modules.

29. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the plurality of sub modules comprises at least one of an image build module, a meta build module, a real-time build module and an auxiliary build module.

30. (New) A method for providing preview information for a website, comprising the following steps:

providing an indication that preview information for a selected website is available;

receiving a request for preview information for the selected website from a user;

generating preview information for the selected website; and

transmitting the preview information and the announcement information to the user.

31. (New) The method of claims 30, wherein the preview information comprises at least one of pre-stored preview information and real-time preview information.

32. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said step of generating preview information comprising the following steps:

forwarding the request for preview information to a main controller;

forwarding the request for preview information from the main controller to
a client page profile module;
generating a preview package for a universal resource locator contained in the
request for preview information;
forwarding the preview package to the main controller; and
displaying the preview package to the user.

33. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein preview information requests entered via an
operating system browser are forwarded to the main controller via a system interface.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein preview information requests entered via a
graphical user interface are forwarded to the main controller directly from the graphical user
interface.

35. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said step of generating a preview package
comprising the following steps:

retrieving preview information from a server via a server interface; and
constructing the preview information based on preview information sources.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the preview information sources is at least one
of networked web pages and auxiliary data sources.

37. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising the following step:

modifying the client configuration settings such that client properties are changed.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said modifying the client configuration settings comprises the following steps:

entering a client configuration request;

processing the client configuration request to determine whether the client configuration request contains a view client configuration settings instruction;

if the client configuration request contains a view client configuration settings instruction, then retrieving current configuration settings, else determining whether the client configuration request includes a modify configuration settings instruction;

if the client configuration request includes a modify configuration settings instruction, then updating the client configuration settings based on the client configuration request, else displaying one of a current client and an updated client configuration data to the user.

39. (New) A system for providing web site information, comprising:

a server for communicating with a client server;

a universal resource locator (URL) interface;

an updater module; said URL interface and updater module storing lists of web site URLs and preview information generation rules for building preview information;

a page profile module; said page profile module generating the preview information from preview information sources including web page networks and auxiliary data sources;

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a preview information archive for storing the preview information; said archive storing preview information which is at least one of generated by the page profile module and returned to the server;

a configuration data module for storing settings for determining when the updater module generates preview information requests; and

a monitor/configuration control module; said control module receiving user statistic information, user profile information and user configuration information.

40. (New) The system of claim 39, further comprising:

a client interface for receiving the user statistic information, the user profiles information and the user configuration information;

an archive interface which interconnects the preview information archive to other servers;

a user database interface which receives the user statistic information, the user profile information and the user configuration information from the client interface;
and

a log module which records the server activity based on log module configuration settings stored in the monitor/configuration control module.

41. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the user statistic information comprises general statistics of client application users.

42. (New) The system of claim 41, wherein the general statistics of client application users comprises at least one of manner of use and amount of use information.

43. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the user profile information comprises specific profile information.

44. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the specific profile information is at least one of web sites visited and frequency of preview information use.

45. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the user configuration information comprises client application configuration data.

46. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the client application configuration data comprises user preferences.

47. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the page profile module generates preview information by accepting preview information requests from at least one of client applications and the updater module, executing the preview information request by generating specified preview information, and returning generated preview information to at least one of the client applications and the preview information archive.

48. (New) The system of claim 47, wherein the preview information archive includes databases of preview information which were previously built by the page profile module and databases having data in a standard preview information format.

49. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the page profile module builds preview information by accessing preview information sources, extracting relevant preview information, and formatting extracted information into a standard preview information format.

50. (New) The system of claim 49, wherein the preview information sources comprise at least one of web page networks and auxiliary data sources.

51. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the page profile module is operable to at least one of retrieve pre-built preview information from the preview information archive and build preview information in response to at least one of client applications and updater requests for preview information.

52. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein page profile module configuration settings stored in a configuration data module determine which preview information to retrieve from the preview information archive, and which preview information the page profile module builds from preview information sources.

53. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the preview information archive is a preview information database which is generated by the page profile module in response to a client and requests for preview information from the updater.

54. (New) The system of claim 53, wherein the preview information archive stores at least one of web page thumbnail images, meta data extracted from web page hyper text mark-up language code, titles, keywords and auxiliary data from sources external to a web page.

55. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the updater automatically updates the preview information archive by generating preview information requests which are sent to the page profile module.

56. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the updater automatically generates preview information requests based on lists of URLs stored in the URL interface.

57. (New) The system of claim 39, further comprising:

a system administrator coupled to the monitor/configuration control module; said system administrator managing server activity by monitoring operation of the server, generating administrative statistics of the sever, and by modifying configuration settings of the server.

58 . (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the page profile module comprises:

a page profile retrieve module;

a page profile build module which extracts preview information from preview information sources;

a page profile interface module;

a world wide web interface module; and

an auxiliary interface module.

59. (New) The system of claim 39, further comprising:

preview information sources from which the page profile module extracts preview information.

60. (New) The system of claim 59, wherein the preview information comprises web page networks.

61. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the web page network are at least one of a world wide web and auxiliary data sources.

62. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the auxiliary data sources are web site information data bases.

63. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the page profile retrieve module receives retrieve requests from external modules, and generates preview information retrieve requests for page profile submodules and other external modules.

64. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the retrieve requests from external modules include preview information retrieve requests by the page profile retrieve module to the server and preview information retrieve requests by the page profile module to the preview information archive.

65. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the page profile retrieve module receives preview information request sent to the page profile module, and at least one of determines whether to build requested preview information and whether to retrieve the requested preview information from an archive of pre-built preview information.

66. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the pre-built information is at least one of information from the server, information from the server preview information archives and preview information databases supplied by web site owners.

67. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the page profile retrieve module comprises a plurality of sub-modules.

68. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the plurality of modules comprises at least one of an image retrieve module, a meta retrieve module, a real-time retrieve module and an auxiliary data retrieve module.

69. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the page profile build module comprises a plurality of sub-modules.

70. (New) The system of claim 69, wherein the plurality of sub modules comprises at least one of an image build module, a meta build module, a real-time build module and an auxiliary build module.

71. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein the plurality of sub-modules access outside information via a world wide web interface module.

73. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the preview information contains the user ID and the URL field.

74. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein the user ID is a client identifier and the URL field is a web address of a web site for the server to generate preview information.

75. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein said updating preview entries comprises the following steps:

initiating a preview information date check in response to updater rules, configuration settings, and external prompts from an external sources;

retrieving a last time that an update of types of data from a preview information archive occurred;

accessing a specified URL to determine a last update time of a specified URL;

comparing update times to determine if data content of a web page is more recent than the data content of a web page in the preview information archive;

if the data content of the web page is as recent as the data content of the web page in the preview information archive terminating all comparisons, else issuing a preview information request to indicate that the data is no longer current;

building new preview information for the specified URL; and

storing new preview information in the preview information archive.

76. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein the preview information request indicates which types of data are no longer current.

77. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein said step of building new preview information for the specified URL comprises the following steps:

executing the preview information request,
accesses preview information sources, and
extracting preview information specified types of data.

78. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein the preview information in the preview information archive is stored along with new dates of preview information.

79. (New) The method of claim 75, further comprising the following step:

automatically updating web site preview information stored in a preview information archive for web site URLs stored in an URL interface module.

80. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein the preview information comprises at least one of a web site URL which is updated and the types of data which are updated.

81. (New) The method of claim 79, wherein the type of data is at least one of a thumbnail image of a web site, meta data, real-time data and auxiliary data.

82. (New) The method of claim 74, further comprising the following steps:

issuing a URL modification request;

determining whether the URL modification request includes a remove URL instruction;

if the URL modification request includes the remove URL instruction, then deleting a specified URL and preview information associated with the specified URL from a URL interface list and the preview information archive, else adding the specified URL to the URL interface list as a new URL;

forwarding the added URL to the preview information archive for creation of a new URL entry having empty preview information data;

determining whether the sever is configured to generate preview information for the new URL entry in the URL interface list; and

if the sever is set to generate preview information for the new URL entry in the URL interface list, then activating an updater such that a preview information request is generated, else terminating the a URL modification request.

83. (New) The method of claim 78, further comprising the following steps:

activating a monitor/configuration control module,

retrieving current configuration data from the configuration data module;

displaying the configuration data to a system administrator;

issuing configuration modification instructions to the monitor/configuration control module to modify the configuration data; and

storing new configuration control setting upon completion of the configuration modification instructions.

84. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein said activation step is achieved by a system administrator via one of the server, Java script and Java applets.

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85. (New) The method of claim 78, further comprising the following steps of:

monitoring the system to detect at least one of malfunctions, loading problems and connection problems; and

forwarding an alarm indication.

86. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein said alarm comprises at least one of pop-up windows, an email, a phone beeper and a phone message.

87. (New) A method for generating announcement information on a web site; comprising the following steps:

selecting a website for which preview information is desired;

checking an internal database to determine whether the selected website includes an announcement feature for the preview information;

if the selected website includes the announcement feature for the preview information, then creating a request for announcement information, else terminating all checks;

transmitting the request for announcement information to the selected website;

transmitting the announcement information for presentation to the user; and

selecting the website which transmitted the announcement information.

88. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said step of checking an internal database comprises the step of:

determining whether the announcement feature is enabled at the selected website.

89. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said announcement request includes context parameters.

90. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the context parameters comprises at least one of user-ID and search information.

91. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the announcement information comprises promotional information.

92. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein the promotional information comprises at least one an hyper text mark-up language file prepared by an owner of the web site and marketing/promotional team, audio information and video information.

93. (New) The method claim 87, wherein the announcement information is provided substantially in real time.--
